

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-25 are present in this application. Claim 1 is independent.

Request for Withdrawal of Finality of Office Action

Applicants respectfully submit that the failure to treat claims 19 and 25 on the merits necessitates that the finality of the previous Office Action be withdrawn. The rejection by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103 does not include a discussion of these claims nor do they indicate that they were not considered.

In addition, Applicants submit that the rejection of claims 1-5, 8, 9, 17, 18, 22, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over El-Hamamsy in view of Mimasu was improper for the reasons set forth below.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the finality of the previous Office Action, and a second Office Action on the merits with respect to claims 1-5, 8, 9, 17-19, 22, 23, and 25 are respectfully requested.

Election of Species Requirement

The Examiner previously made the Election of Species Requirement final, and had withdrawn claims 10-24 from further consideration. Applicants have not canceled these non-elected claims because each of these claims depends, either directly or indirectly, from independent generic claim 1, which is believed to be allowable. Upon allowance of independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully request examination and allowance of these withdrawn claims.

As noted previously, Applicants respectfully submit that at least dependent claims 19 and claim 25 also reads on elected Species I.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-5, 8, 9, 17, 18, 22, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over El-Hamamsy in view of Mimasu. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A complete discussion of the Examiner's rejection is set forth in the Office Action, and is not being repeated here.

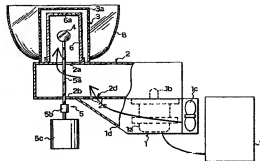
Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 recites a combination of elements in a cooling structure for a plasma lighting system including “a case in which inner components are mounted” and “a fan housing having at least one inlet port and at least two discharge ports having different discharge flow rates for discharging introduced external air into the case with different flow rates from each other in order to cool heat generation components in the case by introducing external air in the case.”

Applicants respectfully submit that this combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including El-Hamamsy and Mimasu.

The Examiner acknowledges that El-Hamamsy fails to disclose discharge ports having different discharge rates. In order to overcome this deficiency, the Examiner turns to the teachings of Mimasu alleging that Mimasu discloses multiple discharge ports (2a, 2c, 2d) having different discharge flow rates because they have different port sizes (col. 6, ll. 1-10). The Examiner further alleges that it would have been obvious to modify El-Hamamsy in order to cool heat generating elements in the case. Applicants respectfully disagree for a number of reasons.

First, the alleged port 2c and 2d of Mimasu are not discharge ports. Rather, Mimasu discloses an aperture 2d comprised of a plurality of holes 2c for securing communication between the duct 1d and the interior of the waveguide 2 (col. 5, line 67 to col. 6, line 3). As such, they are provided for securing communication between the duct 1d and the interior of the waveguide 2, not for cooling heat generation components. Rather, the only hole disclosed to providing cooling air to a heating component is power feeding window 2a.

Second, the cooling air generated by the fan is supplied into the blow guide 6 from the power feeding window 2a through the duct 1d, the aperture 2d and the waveguide 2, and blown onto the lamp 4(col. 6, ll. 3-7). See marked-up Fig. 1 on the next page.



In this arrangement, the only heat generation component after the aperture 2d is the lamp 4, and the only hole providing cooling air to cool the lamp 4 is provided by power feeding window 2a. Consequently, there are not multiple ports providing cooling air to heat generation components. And Mimasu fails to offer any teaching that suggest providing more than one power feeding window, much less power feeding windows having different sizes.

Third, in determining whether it would be obvious to modify El-Hamamsy, one of ordinary skill in the art would note that El-Hamamsy discloses that the apertures 82, as shown in Figs. 2 and 3A, have the same diameter and are evenly spaced about a circle. One of ordinary skill in the art would realize that the apertures 82 arranged in the circle are closer to the teaching of the aperture 2d comprised of holes 2c than the combination of the power feeding window 2a and holes 2c provided along the flow path. Therefore, at best, while Mimasu may suggest a size for the apertures 82 of El-Hamamsy, Mimasu certainly does not suggest different sized holes 2c.

Because Mimasu discloses providing aperture 2d comprising holes 2c in a flow path to the lamp 4, discloses only providing the cooling air to lamp 4 in the interior of the device, and discloses holes 2c as having the same size, the combination of El-Hamamsy in view of Mimasu fails to render independent claim 1 obvious.

As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the combination of elements as set forth in independent claim 1 is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including El-Hamamsy and Mimasu, for the reasons explained above. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

With regard to dependent claims 2-5, 8, 9, 17-18, 22-23, Applicants submit that these claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from independent claim 1, which is allowable for the

reasons set forth above, and therefore these claims are allowable based on their dependence from claim 1, as well as for their additionally recited subject matter.

For example, the Office Action still has failed to identify any features of El-Hamamsy that correspond to the claimed prolonged ducts at the discharge ports, and that at least one of the prolonged ducts is composed of a distribution duct having two discharge ports. Reconsideration and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner states that claims 6 and 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application; however, claims 6 and 7 have not been rewritten in independent form at this time, because it is believed that independent claim 1 from which these claims depend is allowable.

CONCLUSION

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad D. Wells, Registration No. 50,875 at the telephone number of the undersigned below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Dated: August 25, 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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